

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 497

Introduced by Assembly Member Wyland

February 14, 2003

An act to add Section 60850.1 to the Education Code, relating to pupil testing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 497, as introduced, Wyland. Pupil testing: California High School Exit Exam.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to develop a high school exit examination in English language arts and mathematics that is aligned with the statewide academically rigorous content standards. Existing law establishes the High School Exit Examination Standards Panel to assist in the design and composition of the exit examination to ensure that it is aligned with the statewide academically rigorous content standards. Existing law requires the examination to be field tested prior to implementation to ensure that it is free from bias and that its content is valid and reliable. Existing law sets forth additional requirements for the administration of the examination, including the administration of the examination to pupils with exceptional needs.

This bill would require the superintendent with the approval of the State Board of Education, by October 1, 2005, to involve a component in American government and history in the existing high school exit examination. The bill would require this new examination component to be submitted to the High School Exit Examination Standards Panel for review of the design and composition to ensure that it is aligned with the statewide academically rigorous content standards. The bill would

require this new examination component to be field tested to ensure that it is free from bias and that its content is valid and reliable. The bill would subject the modified exit examination, with the component in American government and history, to the existing examination administration requirements.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 60850.1 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:
3 60850.1. (a) By October 1, 2005, the Superintendent of
4 Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of
5 Education, shall involve the high school exit examination
6 established pursuant to Section 60850, an examination component
7 in American government and history in accordance with the
8 statewide academically rigorous content standards adopted by the
9 State Board of Education pursuant to Section 60605. To facilitate
10 the development of this examination component, the
11 superintendent shall review any existing high school subject
12 matter examinations that are linked to, or that can be aligned with,
13 the statewide academically rigorous content standards for
14 American government and history adopted by the State Board of
15 Education. The high school exit examination, as modified by this
16 subdivision, is subject to the requirements of subdivisions (e), (f),
17 (g), and (h) of Section 60850.
18 (b) The High School Exit Examination Standards Panel,
19 established pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 60850, shall
20 assist in the design and composition of the American government
21 and history component of the exit examination to ensure that the
22 examination is aligned with statewide academically rigorous
23 content standards.
24 (c) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall require the
25 American government and history component of the examination
26 to be field tested before actual implementation to ensure that the
27 examination component is free from bias and that its content is
28 valid and reliable.
29 (d) Prior to the adoption by State Board of Education of the
30 American government and history component of the exit



1 examination, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall submit
2 that examination component to the Statewide Pupil Assessment
3 Review Panel established pursuant to Section 60606. The panel
4 shall review all items or questions to ensure that the content
5 complies with the requirements of Section 60614.

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